



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Guardian UAS Maritime Variant Predator B

FACT SHEET



The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Air and Marine (OAM) MQ-9 Predator B unmanned aircraft system (UAS) is a strategic asset for homeland security operated at and beyond the nation's borders to overcome threats moving towards the United States. In partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, OAM developed a maritime variant of its Predator B UAS, called the Guardian, to increase reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, and acquisition capabilities in maritime operating environments.

The Guardian was modified from a standard Predator B with structural, avionics, and communications enhancements, as well as the addition of a Raytheon SeaVue Marine Search Radar and an electro-optical/infrared sensor that is optimized for maritime operations.

OAM pilots use the Guardian to conduct long-range surveillance in support of joint counter-narcotics operations in the Southern California coastal and Gulf of Mexico border regions and drug source and transit zones, where maritime radar is necessary to detect a variety of threats. Video recorders document suspect activities for evidentiary use.

CBP UAS Operations

- UAS fly missions in support of missions in the Southwest Border Region, Southeast Border Region, Northern Border Region, and Joint Interagency Task Force - South to include the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean Transit Zones.

Performance and Weight:

- **Maximum Speed**
240 knots (276 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
50,000 feet
- **Endurance**
Up to 20 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
10,500 pounds

Other System Components

- Fixed and mobile ground control stations
- Electro-optical/infrared sensors, which allow for crewmembers to maintain awareness of targets in all environments.